

Annual Report



BOROUGH OF LEIGH.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year ended December 31st, 1926.



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BOROUGH OF LEIGH, 1926.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR

Chairman :

Councillor T. R. GREENOUGH, J.P.

Deputy Chairman :

Councillor J. L. PRESCOTT, J.P.

Alderman GRUNDY, J.P.

Councillor T. HINDLEY

,, W. HINDLEY

,, HIGENBOTTAM

Councillor BETTON

,, PARRY

,, COLLIER, J.P.

,, WARBURTON

,, FAIRHURST, J.P.

,, YATES

,, GREGORY

Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee.

The CHAIRMAN

Councillor GREGORY

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

,, PARRY

Alderman GRUNDY, J.P.

,, YATES

Councillor FAIRHURST, J.P.

CO-OPTED WOMEN.

THE MAYORESS (Mrs. W. Hilton)

Mrs. E. HOUGHTON

Mrs. B. COLLIER

Mrs. M. A. HARDY

Mrs. E. ISHERWOOD

Staff of Public Health Department.

Medical Officer of Health :

*†J. CLAY BECKITT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

†EDWIN JACKSON, A.R.S.I.

Sanitary Inspectors :

†WILLIAM T. FROST, Cert. R. San. I.

†ARTHUR N. NICKLIN, Cert. R. San. I.

*Health Nurses :

†Miss A. B. BELYEA.

†Miss C. A. SMITH.

†Miss M. A. BOYDELL.

†Miss L. M. GOULDEN.

Clerk :

S. CUNNINGHAM.

† Contribution to salary under the Public Health Acts or by Exchequer Grants.

* Engaged half time in School Work.

Medical Officer of Health's Report for 1926.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee
of the Borough of Leigh.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Report on the Health and Sanitation of your Borough for the year ending 31st December, 1926.

My apology is due for the delay in the preparation of the Report. My excuse is the very limited time at my disposal for anything but matters that must have immediate attention.

This must be apparent when it is realised that, as School Medical Officer, I have the inspection of 7,129 children, together with the supervision of 20 Clinics per week, the examination and detail reporting on physically and mentally defective children, and an Open-air School of 40 physically defective scholars, and, in addition to my several duties as Medical Officer of Health, I am Medical Officer of the Maternity and Child Welfare, which, amongst its activities, includes a Maternity Home.

During the last few years the service has grown rapidly and the amount of work carried out multiplied.

The result, as measured by the saving of infant life, has justified the expansion and proved the policy to be sound.

My ordinary daily duties occupy the whole day, and compiling reports, etc., has to be done in the evenings.

The shortage of houses is still causing extreme overcrowding, with its accompanying interference with health and comfort. The inconvenience experienced is causing a feeling of dissatisfaction and unrest very prejudicial to the well-being of those concerned. The resulting overcrowding is reflected in the less clean condition of the houses and occupants. It is extremely difficult to keep a small house, with few conveniences for cleansing, free from vermin, however great the desire, and, where the management of the house is divided between two or three families, it becomes almost impossible. Such circumstances and their specified results abound in the town.

I regret to have again to report a diminution in the number of births. It is 792, compared with 836 last year. The birth-rate is well above the rate of most Lancashire towns, as the following table of comparison with towns of a similar size shows :—

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS.

The only redeeming feature in connection with the low birth-rate is the more or less continuous diminution of the deaths amongst infants. During the year 67 children under 1 year died, making a rate of 84 per 1,000 births. The following table shows the number of deaths and rate for each of the last 10 years :—

Year.	Number of Deaths under 1 year.	Rate per 1,000 Births.
1917	106	116
1918	135	143
1919	100	101
1920	130	106
1921	131	119.5
1922	88	89
1923	73	85
1924	70	84
1925	83	99
1926	67	84

The arrangements you have from time to time approved for the care of the mothers and babies must, I think, receive credit for such striking diminution in the loss of infantile life.

This contention is amply verified when the death-rate of infants belonging to the Welfare Centre is compared with that of the infants who have not come under the influence of the service. Of the 792 children born 320, or over 40.4 per cent., were brought to the Welfare and registered on the books. Of this 40.4 per cent. only 10 died, while of the remaining 59.6 per cent. 57 died. If the 28 infants be excluded who died during the first month, and therefore practically condemned before coming under the influence of post-natal environment, there still remains 29 who would have had an equal chance of survival to the Welfare infants. The disparity in results cannot be attributed to any one factor, but I consider the most potent to be feeding. If the child is not breast-fed the diet, very irregularly administered, usually consists of condensed milk, patent foods, unclean cow's milk improperly diluted, etc., whereas at the Centre breast feeding and dried milk only are prescribed, and with precise directions as to quantity and the interval between feeds ; the regularity of the meals is also insisted on.

Of the superiority of dried milk over other foods for infants, except breast milk, I am convinced on the following grounds :—

- (a) Its comparative purity.
- (b) Economy and safety of storing in small houses.
- (c) Low susceptibility of contamination.
- (d) Less danger of older children purloining it at the expense of the infant.

On taking a survey of the work carried out during the year in connection with Maternity and Child Welfare and the results thereof, I am satisfied the right lines are being pursued, and the money spent on the service is well invested.

I have to acknowledge indebtedness to various charitable agencies for assistance in circumstances of distress and difficulty outside the scope of the municipal organisation. Particularly I would mention the Save the Children Fund, the Needlework Guild, the District Nursing Association, the Guild of Help, the Leigh Health Society and the Women's Guild of Service.

My thanks are due to the ladies who so generously give their services week by week to assist in carrying on the work at the Welfare Centres. Without their help the paid staff would have to be enlarged or the work considerably diminished.

Social Conditions, including the Chief Occupations of the Inhabitants.

The inhabitants of the Borough consist almost entirely of the industrial class, coal mining occupying the largest number of any single trade, closely followed by textile workers, chiefly in cotton. The insufficiency of houses is keenly felt by the working classes, and the overcrowding must of necessity prejudicially influence their social life. I consider the smoky condition of the atmosphere has a deleterious influence on the general health and predisposes to respiratory diseases, particularly Bronchitis.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area acres (Census 1921)	...	...	...	...	6,359
Population (Census 1921)	...	...	...	...	45,545
Population (Registaar-General's Estimate,					
	middle 1926)	...			45,940
Density of Population per acre	...	..	...		7.02

Number of Inhabited Houses (beginning 1926)...	9,817
Number of New Houses Certified in 1926 ...	234
Total at end of 1926	10,051
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (1921)	10,230
Number of Persons per House	4·57
Rateable Value	£242,123
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	£884
Poor Rate	7/-
General District Rate	5/6

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR 1926.

	Total.	Male.	Female.	
Births { Legitimate ... 761 ... 380 ... 381				
{ Illegitimate ... 31 ... 19 ... 12				
Deaths 608 ... 315 ... 293				
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, child-birth ...		{ from sepsis, 3		
		{ from other causes, 1		
Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—				
Total, 67. Legitimate, 63 ; Illegitimate, 4.				
Deaths from Measles (all ages), 25.				
,, Whooping Cough (all ages), 18.				
,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age), 10.				
Specify any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or required comment :—				
Cancer, with a death-rate per 1000 of population 1·19				
Bronchitis ,, ,, ,, 1·63				
Measles ,, ,, ,, 54				
	Birth-rate.	Death-rate.	Phthisis Death-rate. Rate of Deaths under 1 year to 1000 Births.	
1925 17·8		13·8	0·85 99	
1926 17·2		13·2	0·76 84	
Mean of 5 years				
1921-1925 ... 19·6		13·3	0·94 95	
Increase or Decrease in 1926 on—				
Five Years' Average ... - 2·4		- 0·1	- 0·18 - 11	
Previous Year... ... - 0·6		- 0·6	- 0·09 - 15	

CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

From information received by consulting death returns, and cause of absence from School of elementary school children, etc., I gather Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases have been the cause of an unusual amount of sickness in the district. Whooping Cough and Measles were prevalent amongst children.

SUMMARY OF THE PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH, 1926
 (Estimated on the figures given by the Registrar General).

GENERAL DISEASES.

	No. of deaths.	Per cent. of total deaths.	Death-rate per 1000 of population.
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	... 10	1.64	0.21
Specific Fevers ...	... 36	5.92	0.78
Influenza ...	... 10	1.64	0.21
Whooping Cough ...	... 18	2.96	0.39

CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES.

Tuberculosis of respiratory system...	35	5.74	0.76
Other Tubercular Diseases ...	12	1.96	0.26
Cancer ...	57	9.34	1.24

DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASE.

Congenital Debility	... 20	3.28	0.43
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LOCAL DISEASES.

Heart and Circulatory System ...	80	13.12	1.74
<u>Respiratory System—</u>			
(a) Bronchitis ...	78	12.79	1.69
(b) Pneumonia ...	47	7.70	1.02
<u>Urinary System</u> ...			
... 16	2.62	0.34	
<u>Reproductive System—</u>			
(a) Parturition ...	1	0.16	0.02
(b) Puerperal Fever ...	3	0.48	0.06

VIOLENT CAUSES.

Accidents ...	21	3.44	0.45
Suicides ...	3	0.48	0.06

OTHER DISEASES. ... 161 26.40 3.50

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1926.

Birthrate per 1,000 Total Popula- tion.	Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population.						Rate per 1,000 Births.		
	All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diph- theria.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years).	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
Leigh	... 17.2	... 0.02	... 0.00	... 0.50	... 0.04	... 0.39	... 0.17	... 0.42	... 12.5
England and Wales	... 17.8	... 11.6	... 0.01	... 0.09	... 0.02	... 0.10	... 0.07	... 0.47	... 8.7
105 Great Towns, including London (Census Populations exceeding 50,000)	... 18.2	... 11.6	... 0.01	... 0.00	... 0.12	... 0.02	... 0.10	... 0.43	... 7.5
155 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000—50,000)	... 17.6	... 10.6	... 0.01	... 0.00	... 0.07	... 0.02	... 0.11	... 0.40	... 6.6
London	... 17.1	... 11.6	... 0.01	... 0.00	... 0.20	... 0.02	... 0.05	... 0.48	... 6.4

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
FOR THE AREA.

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY OR COUNTY COUNCIL.

A 1. **Fever.**—The Infectious Disease Hospital for the Borough of Leigh is under the control of the Leigh Joint Hospital Board, and is for the districts of Leigh Borough, Atherton, Tyldesley and Golborne Urban Districts, and Leigh Rural District. It is situated at Astley, outside the Borough. There are 128 beds for Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Enteric Fever, Measles, Puerperal Fever, &c. The accommodation is sufficient.

2. **Smallpox.**—Provision is made through the Leigh Joint Hospital Board, which has a hospital containing 32 beds for a population of approximately 100,000, situated at Astley, near the isolation hospital for other infectious diseases. There were four cases from the area removed to hospital during the year and one suspected case.

B 1. **Tuberculosis.**—Institutional accommodation is provided entirely by the Lancashire County Council. There is no County residential institution in the Borough.

2. **Maternity.**—There is no provision in the district for normal or abnormal cases of maternity. Cases are obliged to go to St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, the Leigh Union Hospital (situated outside the Borough), or the Bolton Nursing Home. Provision is greatly needed; the overcrowded condition of many houses, with the lack of accommodation, leads to situations of positive indecency. The risk of infection is also enormously increased. Since the end of the year the Corporation has opened a Maternity Home of 5 beds.

3. **Children.**—No provision has been made for hospital treatment of children. The Local Authority subscribes £26 5s. od. per annum to the Manchester Children's Hospital. Most cases requiring hospital treatment find their way to this institution, and a few to the Leigh Infirmary.

4. **Others.**—Nil.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS TO HOSPITALS, &c.

		£	s.	d.
Manchester Eye Hospital	...	...	8	8 0
Manchesteare Ear Hospital	...	...	5	5 0
Manchester Royal Infirmary	...	...	50	8 0
St. Mary's Hospital	...	...	3	3 0
Manchester Children's Hospital		...	26	5 0
Leigh Infirmary	...	...	10	10 0
Royal Salford Hospital	...	...	10	10 0
N.S.P.C.C. ...	...	...	3	3 0
		<hr/>		
Total	...	<u>£117</u>	<u>12</u>	0

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS,
ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS AND HOMELESS CHILDREN.

None is provided.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) For infectious cases.—A motor ambulance for removal of infectious cases to the Sanatorium at Astley is provided by the Joint Hospital Board, and is housed at the Sanatorium.

(b) For non-infectious cases.—Four motor ambulances are provided by the Local Authority and housed at the Fire Station. Cases of accident within the Borough are removed free. A moderate charge is made to others ; this is modified or excused in necessitous cases.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

(a) **Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.**—There are two centres situated at Stone House, St. Helens Road, and Coal Pit Lane, respectively, provided by the Local Authority. Meetings are held weekly at each centre for weighing and distribution of food, and medical consultation at Stone House. No medical treatment is carried out ; cases requiring it are referred to their own doctor. Instructional Sewing Classes are held weekly on Tuesday afternoons under the supervision of the Health Nurses at each centre. An Ante-Natal Clinic is held weekly on Monday afternoons at Stone House under the care of an Honorary Surgeon. Although every inducement is held out, it does not receive the support of the expectant mothers it deserves. There still exists an indifference almost amounting to a prejudice to seeking advice or guidance before the event. Continuous education alone will overcome it. The following are a few of the details of the work for 1926 :—

320 babies were entered on the books.
 1815 attendances by infants.
 640 consultations.
 76 ante-natal consultations.
 10 deaths of babies on the books.
 368 pints of fresh milk were given.
 7337 lb. packets of dried milk were given.
 9731 lb. packets of dried milk were sold.
 43 4 oz. pots of virol were given.
 803 4 oz. pots of virol were sold.
 489 articles of clothing distributed to necessitous cases.
 89 oz. emulsion were given.
 40 bottles of Horlicks sold.
 5 bottles of Horlicks given.
 267 bottles of emulsion sold.

The Health Visitors' work is summarised thus :—

Primary Visits	...	..	...	...	801
Re-visits...	...	...	2489	{ under 1 year, over 1 year,	712 1777
Still-births	...	..	..	...	34
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	..	129
Attendances at Centre	...	...	...	...	236
Visits to Workshops	...	...	...	...	36
Interviews	...	...	...	...	1306
Ante-Natal Visits...	...	...	...	...	27
Puerperal Fever Visits	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	...	849

(b) Day Nurseries.—There are none in the district.

(c) School Clinics.

Clinic.	Sessions per week.	Accommodation.
(1) Inspection	... One	... 2 Waiting Rooms and 1 Consulting Room
(2) Minor Ailment (a) Stone House Six Treatment (b) Coal Pit Lane Six	... Six	... Waiting Room, Dressing Room
(3) Ophthalmic	... One as required	... Waiting Room, Ophthalmic Room
(4) Aural	... One	... Waiting Room, Consulting Room
(5) Dental	.. Four	... Waiting Room, Surgery, Recovery Room
(6) Operative (Tonsils and Adenoids)	... One as required	... Waiting Room, Anæsthetic Room, Operation Room, Recovery Room
(7) Artificial Light	... Two	... Waiting Room, Dressing Room, Lamp Room.

The School Clinics are held at Stone House, St. Helens Road, and at the Branch Clinic situated in Coal Pit Lane and are provided by the Leigh Education Committee.

(d) **Tuberculosis.**—This service is under the control of the Lancashire County Council. The central dispensary of one of the areas is situated in the town. The following statement showing treatment, etc., was supplied by the Consulting Tuberculosis Officer :—

	Adults. 15 and over.			Children.	Total.
No. of cases admitted to Sanatoria	...	17	...	3	... 20
No. of cases admitted to Pulmonary Hospitals	47	...	—	...	47
No. of cases admitted to General Hospitals	10	...	10	—	20
No. of cases granted Skin Hospital Treatment	7	...	6	...	13
No. of cases granted X-Ray examination...	—	..	—	...	62
No. of cases granted Dispensary Supervision, with provision of Special Nourishment	I	...	—	...	I

	Adults.			15 and over.		Children.		Total.	
No. of cases granted Dispensary Supervision or Dispensary Treatment	258	...	61	...	319		
No. of cases under supervision on 31st December, 1926	217	...	58	...	275	
Pulmonary	122	7	129		
Non-Pulmonary	82	217	47	58	129	275
Combined (Pulmonary & Non-Pulmonary)				13		4		17	

During the year 61 cases (48 adults and 13 children were taken from the register as "cured."

The County Tuberculosis Dispensary, 13 Church Street, is open each Wednesday and Friday at 9-30 a.m. and also on the second Thursday in each month at 6-30 p.m. for patients who are working. Close co-operation has thus been maintained between Medical Practitioners, including the School Medical Officer, who regularly sends children with suspicious symptoms, and the Tuberculosis Staff. Working in close association with the Dispensary, there is a voluntary Care Committee which meets monthly at the Dispensary for the purpose of providing clothing, nourishment, &c., for poor consumptives in order to enable them to persevere with their long course of treatment and prevent their becoming chargeable to the Guardians.

(e) **Venereal Diseases.**—The scheme for treatment is administered by the County Council.

There is no centre for treatment in the town, but a choice can be made from Bolton, Wigan, Manchester, Salford and Warrington, all very accessible, and fares are paid in necessitous cases.

The Health Department acts as an information bureau to patients and medical practitioners.

The County Council supplies outfits for the collection of specimens and examinations free of charge. Salvarsan substitutes are also supplied free to approved medical practitioners. The service provided is decidedly adequate, but patients fail to embrace the full benefit by stopping treatment prematurely. Some compulsory means to ensure full course is necessary before the expenditure entailed can be considered remunerative.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

All members are engaged whole time.

Office held.	Name.	Qualifications.	Other Offices held.
†Medical Officer of Health...J. Clay Beckitt ...		M. R. C. S., L. R. C. P., School Medical D. P. H.	Officer Med. Off. M. & C. W.
†Chief Sanitary Inspector...Edwin Jackson ...		A. R. S. I.	Inspector under ...the Canal boats Acts. Rat Officer
†Sanitary Inspector...Wm. T. Frost ...		Cert. R. S. I. ...	
,	...Arthur N. Nicklin	Cert. R. S. I. ...	
†Health Nurse ..Miss A. B. Belyea.	Children's Training	School Nurse.	
		C. M. B. R. S. I. Cert. for Women Health Visitors and School Nurses.	
† ,,	...Miss C. A. Smith..General and Fever...	School Nurse Training	
† ,,	...Miss A. M. Boydell.	General Training ...School Nurse C. M. B. Cert. Q. V. J. I.	
† ,,	... Miss L. M. Goulden	General Training ...School Nurse and C. M. B.	
Clerk	...S. Cunningham		

†Contribution to salary under the Public Health Acts or by Exchequer Grants.

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS AND HOSPITALS.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) **General.**—A Local District Nursing Association, supported entirely by voluntary contributions, carries on a very useful work. Two fully-trained Nurses are engaged and render very highly appreciated service in the homes. They are not allowed to visit infectious cases. There is no definite scheme of co-operation between the Association and the Health Department of the Local Authority, but constant reference from one to the other is carried out by the staffs. The Corporation does not subscribe to the funds of the Nursing Association. Occasionally a local private trained nurse is available for engagement, but such services are usually supplied through private nurses' homes in one of the neighbouring towns.

(b) **Infectious Diseases.**—The Health Nurses meet the demand as far as possible in the case of children suffering from Measles, Diarrhoea, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, &c.

Under the Public Health (Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia) Regulations, 1926, arrangements have been made with a Specialist attached to a teaching hospital to visit the homes of Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia patients for consultation on request of the Medical Attendant.

Also under similar circumstances for the supply of a trained nurse.

MIDWIVES.

No midwife is supplied or subsidised by the Public Health Authority. There are 17 midwives practising in the district. The service is sufficiently supplied, but the work is very unevenly distributed, a few midwives having nearly all the practice.

PRIVATE AND ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE IN THE
DISTRICT.

Name of Act.	Date of Adoption.
Leigh Corporation Act	... September, 1903
Baths and Wash-houses Act, 1879	... In or about 1879
Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889	... 27th November, 1889
Private Street Works Act, 1892	... 30th July, 1895
Libraries Act, 1892	... 27th September, 1892
Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890 :	
Parts II. and III.	... 26th April, 1892
Parts IV. and V.	... 9th November, 1900
Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890 :	
Part III.	... 11th March, 1902
Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890	... 14th October, 1902
Museum and Gymnasiums Act, 1891	... 11th March, 1902
Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907 :	By Order of the Local Government Board, dated 1st May, 1913, which Order repealed the following Sections of the Leigh Corporation Act, 1903 : Sections, 151, 167 (so far as relates to Sec. 34 of the Act of 1907), 210, 211 and 212.
Part II., Sections 22, 30 and 33	
Part III., Sections 34, 36, 37, 49 and 51	
Part IV., Sections 55, 56, 63, 64 and 65	
Part V. (whole)	
Part X. (whole)	

BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS IN FORCE WITHIN THE DISTRICT.

	Date when made by Council.	Approved by Government Department.
Prohibition of Book-making, Betting or Wagering in Public Places	... 16th Oct. 1900 ...	—
Compulsory Lighting of Vehicles	... 13th Mar. 1900 ...	3rd May 1900
Prevention of Danger from Telegraph Wires, &c.	... 12th Mar. 1901 ...	7th Oct. 1901
Markets	... 30th Aug. 1901 ...	15th Oct. 1901
Omnibuses	... 10th Sept. 1901 ...	26th Oct. 1901
Management, Use and Regulation of the Public Baths	... 10th Sept. 1901 ...	29th Oct. 1901
Drainage of Existing Buildings	... 8th April 1902 ...	31st May 1902
New Streets and Buildings	... 10th June 1902 ...	13th Aug. 1902
Slaughter-houses	... 14th Oct. 1902 ...	29th Nov. 1902
Offensive Trades	... 14th Oct. 1902 ...	29th Nov. 1902
Common Lodging-houses	... 14th Oct. 1902 ...	29th Nov. 1902
Nuisances	... 9th Nov. 1903 ...	2nd Jan. 1904
Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar Structures used for Human Habitation in the Borough of Leigh	... 13th Oct. 1908 ...	23rd Dec. 1908
Provision of Means of Escape in case of Fire in certain Factories and Workshops in the Borough of Leigh	... 8th June 1909 ...	2nd July 1909
For the Good Rule and Government of the Borough of Leigh and for the Prevention of Nuisances	... 11th May 1909 ...	—
Rear Lights on Vehicles	... 8th Oct. 1912 ...	28th Nov. 1912
For Regulating the Employment of Children and Street Trading by Young Persons	... 10th Aug. 1920 ...	22nd Jan. 1921
Regulations with respect to Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	... 12th Mar. 1901 ...	—
Regulations as to Internal Water Fittings, Service Pipes, &c.	... March 1907 ...	—
Regulating the Travelling and Prevention of Nuisances in Motor Omnibuses	... 13th June 1922 ...	23rd Aug. 1922
Pleasure Grounds	... 12th Dec. 1922 ...	7th Feb. 1923

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

(a) **Water Supply.**—Purchased in bulk from the Liverpool Corporation. It is frequently chemically examined and found satisfactory. The lead solvency action found to exist some years ago is effectively checked by systematic treatment. Service reservoir equals one day's supply. Average daily consumption per head, 19·85 gallons. The provision is far from satisfactory both on account of lack of permanency of the supply and the insignificant storage capacity.

(b) **Drainage and Sewerage.**—The whole of the urban portion of the district is sewered. There is no separate system for surface water. The sewage is treated by the Leigh and Atherton Joint Sewerage Board, situated in the Borough, by means of bacteria filter beds. The effluent is satisfactory.

(c) Closet Accommodation.

Number of Houses	...	...	...	10,051
Fresh Water Closets	...	...	...	8,917
Waste Water Closets	...	...	...	853
Prives	...	...	...	111
Pails	...	...	...	7

No conversions of privies to fresh water closets were carried out during the year.

(d) **Scavenging.**—Street scavenging, collection and destruction of house refuse are undertaken by the Cleansing Committee.

The following details have been supplied by the Superintendent of that Department :—

(1) Ashpits and Bins in the district :—

Dry Ashpits	...	...	...	...	4,012
Wet Ashpits	...	...	...	...	58
Bins	...	...	...	...	2,367

(2) Number of Ashpits, Bins and Pails emptied :—

Ashbins emptied	...	...	...	128,662
Ashpits emptied	...	...	...	27,621
Loads removed	...	...	...	12,447
Weight of refuse	...	...	...	18,242 tons
Dealt with at Destructor	...	...	...	6,020 tons
Delivered to Tips	...	...	...	12,222 tons

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

(a) Summary of Inspections.

In connection with Infectious Diseases	(a) Primary	... 1166
	(b) Re-visits	... 11641
Slaughter-houses	...	... 1218
Piggeries	...	... 198
Dairies and Cowsheds	...	... 73
Milk Shops	...	... 91
Bakehouses	...	.. 89
Common Lodging-houses	...	... 672
Houses let in lodgings	...	.. 53
Vans and Tents	...	... 27
Offensive Trades	...	... 157
Factories	...	... 25
Workshops and Workplaces	..	... 179
Schools	...	... 87
Smoke Observations	...	... 27
Ice Cream Makers	...	... 63
Canal Boats	...	... 37

(b) Defects or Nuisances found.

Defective House Drains	...	...	...	731
,, Gullies	...	...	...	473
,, Sink Pipes	...	...	...	171
,, Water Closets	..	...	...	579
,, Privies	..	...	...	20
,, Spouting	..	...	...	401
,, Roofs	...	...	...	293
,, Pavements, Channelling and Yards	...	...	...	61
Dis-repair of Houses	...	...	...	283
Filthy Houses	...	...	...	18
Damp Houses	...	...	...	194
Insufficient Ventilation	...	...	...	29
Dis-repair of Ashpits	...	...	...	71

(c) Notices Served.

(a) Informal	...	...	...	...	...	705
(b) Statutory	...	...	...	...	...	97

(d) Result.

Number of Nuisances dealt with	...	...	...	3324
„ „ reported to Health Committee	...	...	607	
„ „ abated after notice	...	...	507	
„ „ „ without notice	...	...	2724	

Smoke Abatement.—The subject of excessive emission of smoke from works chimneys has engaged the attention of the Health Committee, and a course of free lectures was organised for boiler-men, stokers and others interested in the subject of smoke abatement in May, 1926, but were postponed after the first lecture on account of the difficulty of transport and the unsettled conditions during the “General Strike” and the Coal Dispute.

The lectures were subsequently given in January, 1927.

In all cases where an observation shows excessive emission the engineer in charge of the plant is interviewed and a notice sent to the owners of the premises.

The observations taken during the year were 27. No prosecutions were undertaken.

The time limit allowed by our bye-law for the emission of black smoke is eight minutes per hour.

The emission of grit is an added source of trouble. The inclusion of this in the definition of “Smoke” in the new Act should facilitate administration.

No readings of atmospheric impurities have been taken.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by
Bye-laws and Regulations :—

Public Baths ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
Slaughter-houses Registered	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
,, Licensed	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Offensive Trades—							
Gut Scraper	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
Tripe Boilers	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Common Lodging-houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
Tents, Vans and similar structures used for human habitation.							
Dairies and Cowsheds.							

No Bye-laws have been adopted in regard to houses let in lodgings. I consider such a step very desirable, and have advised my Committee to that effect. My advice was not acted upon.

There are no underground sleeping rooms in the Borough. I therefore do not see the need for Bye-laws regarding them.

CANAL BOATS ACTS.

Inspected...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Registered and in use	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	150
New Boats registered	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
Infringements reported ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

I.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

(Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises.	Number of Inspections.	Written Notices.	Number of Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	...	34	...
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	...	274	...
Workplaces (other than Outworkers premises)..	169	...	..
Total	477	8	Nil

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars.	Number of Defects, Found.			Remedied.		
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—						
Want of Ventilation	8	...	8			
Sanitary accommodation—						
Unsuitable or defective —	—	...	—			
Total	8	...	8			

Schools.

Public Elementary—(a)	Provided	...	...	I
,,	(b) Non-provided	...	...	I7
Secondary—Girls	...	...	...	I
,, Boys	...	..	...	..
Technical	...	...	...	I
Day Continuation	...	...	...	I
Private	...	...	...	2

The Public Elementary Schools are frequently visited and the sanitary arrangements kept under strict observations.

All the Schools are supplied by the Corporation water supply and have a sufficiency of fresh water closet accommodation.

Most of them are on the trough system and flushed automatically.

The system is not satisfactory ; it is too dependent on the personal element, and all caretakers are not sufficiently interested in this part of their work. Great vigilance is necessary to maintain a reasonable condition of cleanliness.

The provision for washing at some of the Schools is far from satisfactory, and lack the degree of cleanliness desirable in a teaching establishment.

The cloak-rooms are not suitable, badly lighted and unheated in most Schools.

A defect common to nearly all Schools in the Borough is the unpaved playground. Cinders are generally used to cover the ground surrounding the School building, with the result that in dry weather a cloud of black dust is floating about, and on wet days the children have to play in a black quagmire, much of which is carried on the boots and clogs and deposited in the class-room.

Efforts are being made to reduce the obnoxious conditions by paving at least some portion of the yards.

The three age groups and specials are inspected yearly in the Public Elementary Schools.

An Inspection Clinic is held weekly for the re-inspection of those found defective and to supervise the Minor Ailment Clinics.

Clinics for the treatment of dental defects, tonsils and adenoids, defective vision, ear, nose and throat diseases, and the application of artificial sunlight, are provided.

Efforts to prevent the spread of infectious disease in the Schools have been carried out for some years much on the lines recommended in the Board of Education's Memorandum on Closure of and Exclusion from School, 1925.

All School children, whether attending public or private Schools, suffering from an infectious disease and their contacts are excluded from School for a definite period according to the particular disease, and not re-admissible except on the certificate of the Medical Officer of Health, who is also School Medical Officer.

The examinations for this purpose are held at the Inspection Clinics.

The ascertainment of notifiable infectious cases is secured by notifications by medical practitioners. Cases of non-notifiable diseases by reports of Head Teachers, Health Nurses, School Attendance Officers and the Principals of the Private Schools.

The Schools are disinfected on the occasion of an outbreak of infectious disease, and during holidays.

The personal books and school appliances of infectious cases are destroyed or occasionally disinfected, and the desk and its surroundings occupied by the child well washed with disinfectant.

It is rare to be able to trace infection to a School mate, except in the case of Measles and Whooping Cough. The home of the infectious child is fumigated by formalin on convalescence or removal.

HOUSING.

No. of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	234
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :—									
(i) By Local Authority	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	151
(ii) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	83

No. of houses in course of erection under Council's Building Scheme

...

UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.—

Inspection—

(1) Total number of Dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1115
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were inspected under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil 152
(3) Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(4) Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1115

REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers

...

721

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A. Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—	
(a) by Owners	Nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil
(3) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close	Nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	197
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice—	
(a) by Owners	181
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil

C. Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ...	Nil
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	Nil
(3) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the Dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	Nil
(4) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	Nil

(5) Number of Dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	I
---	-----	---

<i>D. Number of Houses demolished voluntarily by owners or converted to Workshops</i>	I 2
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INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) **Milk Supply.**--During the year 164 inspections of farms and dairies were made, and conferences with the applicants for registration as retail purveyors have been held. Negotiations are still proceeding with a view of securing a supply of cleaner milk.

Eighty-seven applications for registration as retail purveyors have been received, but as the Health Committee were not satisfied that the applicants were fully meeting the requirements of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, a further period has been granted to enable them to devise methods of distribution that will satisfy the Committee that contamination is not likely to take place. The sale of milk in bottles is on the increase in the Borough.

The Veterinary Inspector made 453 inspections of dairy cattle and took action under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925, in 16 cases.

The following is the state of the register on December 31st, 1926:—

Cowkeepers	...	...	...	58
Retail Purveyors	...	...	...	Nil
Dairies	...	...	...	58

(b) **Meat, etc.**--The slaughter-houses are visited regularly following notice of intention to slaughter and at irregular times. Twelve hundred and eighteen visits were made.

The shops, stalls and vehicles are also kept under constant observation.

There is a general inclination to comply with the Meat Regulations. One shop only has a portion of the front constantly open. The occupier of these premises was convicted on 11th March, ~~1926~~¹⁹²⁶, and fined £5 for failing to comply with Section 20 (5) (a). A few of the others open a portion occasionally in suitable weather.

There is no public slaughter-house.

Private slaughter-houses : Registered 13 ; Licensed 6 ; Total 19.

With the exception of one they are small and scattered about the district. Efforts are made to secure voluntary surrender of the registered slaughter-houses as opportunity arises.

The following unsound food was condemned, voluntary surrendered and destroyed :—

Beef	...	...	...	4448 lbs.
Pork	...	...	...	454 ,,
Fish	...	...	...	20107 ,,
Fruit	...	...	...	760 ,,
Rabbits	...	...	...	80 ,,
Lamb	...	...	...	56 ,,
Fowls	...	..	...	90 ,,

(c) **Adulteration, etc.**—The Lancashire County Council carry out the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts. Samples for analysis are taken by the County Police.

The Local Police Superintendent reports that during 1926 the following samples were taken in the area and submitted to the Public Analyst for examination :—

Milk	...	...	...	...	73
Butter	...	...	...	...	10
Margarine	...	...	...	...	10
Lard	...	...	...	...	10
Pepper	...	...	...	...	9
Ground Ginger	...	...	...	...	4
Coffee	...	...	...	...	7
Bicarbonate of Soda	...	...	..	..	5
Baking Powder	...	...	...	..	2
<hr/>					
Total	...	...	...	...	130

Two prosecutions for selling milk not of the volume and substance demanded were undertaken and a fine of £10 was imposed in each case.

PREVELANCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Diphtheria, Measles and Whooping Cough were unusually prevalent during the year.

The following tables show the distribution of the notified cases of Diphtheria as regards (a) period of the year, (b) age of the patients :—

(a) Distribution—period of the year.

Month.	Cases.				
January	7
February	10
March	7
April	7
May	10
June	6
July	3
August	3
September	2
October	8
November	10
December	7
<hr/>					<hr/>
Total	80
<hr/>					<hr/>

(b) Distribution—age of patients.

1-2 years	...	...	...	...	1
2-3 "	...	...	...	...	3
3-4 "	...	...	...	...	8
4-5 "	...	...	...	...	5
5-10 "	...	...	...	...	33
10-15 "	...	...	...	...	10
15-20 "	...	...	...	...	7
20-35 "	...	...	...	...	9
35-45 "	...	...	...	...	3
45-65 "	...	...	...	...	1
<hr/>					<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	...	80
<hr/>					<hr/>

Careful investigation is made in each case to ascertain the source of infection and method of spread.

Diphtheria Anti-toxin is supplied free to the medical practitioners in doses of 4,000 units, and they are urged to use it early and freely. They are further advised to use it even in doubtful cases pending a final decision of the diagnosis.

An outbreak of Small-pox occurred in May. It was confined to one family, four members of which were attacked. The source of infection was not definitely ascertained. A special report was submitted.

One case only of Encephalitis Lethargica was notified.

No case of Malaria, Dysentry or Trench Fever was notified.

LABORATORY WORK.

Arrangements exist for the bacteriological examinations of swabs and sputum, the carrying out of Widal test, and examination of cerebro-spinal fluid. Telegraphic communication is made to the medical practitioner in cases of positive results, and a report by post is sent in every case to this department.

The following table shows the number submitted during the year, with the results :—

Specimen.	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Swab	11	59	70
Sputum	4	11	15
Faeces	—	—	—
Blood Test...	—	—	3

Diphtheria anti-toxin and swabs are supplied by the Local Authority, and special arrangements are made to facilitate the distribution to medical practitioners so that they may always have in their possession one swab and a preliminary dose of serum for immediate use. They are encouraged to administer an early application even to very doubtful cases of the disease. Forty-eight doses were supplied during the year.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The following diseases were compulsory notifiable in the area :—

Small-pox
 Cholera
 Membranous Croup
 Erysipelas
 Scarlet Fever
 Typhus Fever
 Typhoid Fever
 Enteric Fever
 Continued Fever
 Relapsing Fever
 Puerperal Fever
 Cerebro-Spinal Fever
 Acute Poliomyelitis
 Encephalitis Lethargica
 Ophthalmia Neonatorum
 Tuberculosis
 Malaria
 Dysentery
 Trench Fever
 Acute Primary Pneumonia
 Acute Influenzal Pneumonia
 Chicken-pox was compulsory notifiable from 2nd June
 to the 2nd August, 1926.

SUMMARY OF NOTIFICATIONS OF THE PRINCIPAL INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease.	Case Rate per 1000 living, Leigh.
Small-pox	0.08
Scarlet Fever... ...	0.47
Diphtheria	1.7
Enteric Fever	0.04
Puerperal Pyrexia	0.08
Erysipelas	0.54

On account of the crowded condition of most of the homes the patients suffering from Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever are removed to the Isolation Hospital. In other cases isolation is strictly enforced.

Number of Cases of Infectious Disease notified, Number of Deaths from these Diseases, Number of Cases removed to Hospital, and Deaths in Hospital during the year 1926.

DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED										HOSPITAL									
	Total Cases at all ages					Under 1 year					65 and over					Total Deaths				

Smallpox	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	80	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	22	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	11	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trench Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Primary Pneumonia	78	3	3	3	4	13	10	7	19	2	9	2	47	—
Acute Influenza Pneumonia	66	—	—	1	2	—	1	2	13	23	10	14	—	35
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	29	2	1	—	1	1	7	2	9	6	—	—	—	14
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	28	1	3	4	—	3	10	3	2	1	—	—	—	—
Chickenpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Any other Disease notified in the District	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	352	19	9	12	16	17	69	36	41	65	24	39	5	109	180	25		

Hospital in
Hospital removed to
Hospital belonging to district
persons belonging to hospital

Disinfection of premises and materials is carried out by the staff of the Health Department. All dwelling-houses are dealt with on death, removal or convalescence of infectious patients. Other premises are frequently disinfected on request and where necessity is apparent. The Schools are also frequently disinfected—particularly during periods of epidemics or the known presence of an infectious child. Private Schools are treated on request. Formalin lamps are used for buildings and a steam disinfecter is available for clothes, bedding, etc. Two hundred and eleven premises were disinfected during the year on account of the following diseases :—

Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	6
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	17
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	2
Diphtheria...	...	..	...	...	79
Phthisis	...	...	...	...	76
Cancer	...	...	...	...	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	4
Schools :—Measles	...	...	...	...	20
Measles	...	...	...	...	2

No use has been made of the Schick and Dick tests or immunization against Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever.

No vaccinations were performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Small-pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

The Public Vaccinator placed his services freely at the disposal of the Health Department during the outbreak of Small-pox.

Whooping Cough and Measles were very prevalent. A few cases of illness were notified by the parents, but the majority were ascertained through the Teachers, School Attendance Officers and Health Nurses.

As far as possible each case was visited by a Health Nurse at least once to impress on the parents the importance of medical attendance. When infectious cases are prevalent the Head Teacher of each School makes a daily return of children absent from School on account of illness supposed to be infectious. The practice is found to be of great service, particularly in the case of non-notifiable infectious diseases.

There is no disinfesting station ; bedding and other clothing are treated in the steam disinfecter.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

		No. of Cases notified.		No. of Deaths.		No. of Cases removed to Hospital.		No. of Deaths in Hospital.
Small-pox	...	...	4	...	—	...	4	...
Diphtheria	...	...	80	...	8	...	65	...
Erysipelas	...	...	25	...	—	...	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	22	...	2	..	17	...
Enteric Fever	...	...	2	...	1	...	1	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	4	...	3	...	4	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	11	...	—	—	...	—	—	—
Chicken-pox	...	...	28	...	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	78	...	47	...	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica..	I	...	—	—	...	—	—	—

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Number Notified.	CASES TREATED.				Vision impaired.	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
	At Home.	In Hospital.	I	II				
II	IO	I	II	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

TUBERCULOSIS.

There were 95 newly ascertained cases of all forms of Tuberculosis notified during the year, with 47 deaths, giving a death-rate of 1·02 per 1000, of which 0·76 was due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Dispensary and Sanatorium treatment is carried out by the County Council ; also institutional treatment of surgical Tuberculosis. The Chief Dispensary of one of the County Areas is situated in the Borough. No deaths due to Tuberculosis occurred in cases which had not been previously notified as suffering from the disease.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1926.

Age periods. Years.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1	..	0	0	0	2	...	0	0
1-5	...	2	1	1	2	...	0	0
5-10	...	0	1	5	2	...	0	0
10-15	...	2	0	0	2	...	1	0
15-20	...	7	6	4	5	...	3	2
20-25	...	2	5	2	1	...	0	3
25-35	...	6	10	1	2	...	4	4
35-45	...	7	3	0	0	...	6	1
45-55	...	7	1	0	0	..	5	2
55-65	...	3	3	0	0	...	3	1
65 and upwards	0	0	0	0	...	0	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	36	30	13	16	..	22	13	5
Totals	..	66	29			35		12

OCCUPATION OF NOTIFIED TUBERCULOSIS CASES.

Under 5 years	7	Shop Assistants	2
Scholars (5 to 14 years) ...	11	Packer	1
Domestic	12	Pit Brow	1
Coal Miners	14	Cable Worker	1
Labourers	3	Chemist's Packer	1
No occupation	11	Electrician	1
Haulage Hand	1	Policeman	1
Checkweighman	1	Bus Drivers	2
Cotton Operatives	21	Wine and Spirit Bottler ...	1
Weavers	4		

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER.

No. of Cases—	Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.			Total Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
(a) On Register at commencement of year									
98	63	161	78	74	152	176	137	313	
(b) Notified for first time during the year									
36	30	66	13	16	29	49	46	95	
Total (a) and (b)... ...									
134	93	227	91	90	181	225	183	408	
(c) Removed from Register during the year									
42	33	75	25	19	44	67	52	119	
(d) Remaining on Register at end of year									
92	60	152	66	71	137	158	131	289	

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS)
REGULATIONS, 1925.

There was no case to which the regulations applied.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, SECTION 62.

No case, to which the Section applied, was ascertained.

A very large amount of work has been done by the department during the year, and I have to thank every member of the staff for their hearty co-operation.

At the same time I would like to take this opportunity of placing on record my appreciation of the cordial support always afforded me by the Health Committee and the Council.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

J. CLAY BECKITT,

Medical Officer of Health.



